



June 2005

A celebration in music, song, and dance

El Sereno Community Garden groundbreaking

Los Angeles, CA (June 18, 2005) - Local residents celebrated the opening of a community garden and small neighborhood park in the northeast L.A. city community of El Sereno. Park development of the 0.7-acre site is a victory over urban blight for the El Sereno Community Garden Association and its cooperator, Los Angeles Community Garden Council. The abandoned property is owned by California's Department of Transportation, which agreed to make the property available for neighborhood use. Project partners included the City of Los Angeles, the city's Recreation and Parks Department, and Los Angeles Conservation Corps. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program is supporting L.A. Community Garden Council by facilitating monthly stakeholder meetings, developing outreach strategies and materials, and building strategic partnerships that will help the organization achieve its goal of establishing new community gardens throughout urban Los Angeles. For more information, please contact Jim Donovan, Community Planner, at jim_donovan@nps.gov or 323-441-2117.



Photo courtesy Jim Donovan

Former BRAC Property results in \$90M Gift to NYC

Opening of Fort Totten Park



Photo by Spencer Tucker

Queens, NY (June 13, 2005) – Just in time for the start of summer, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, surrounded by local elected officials, announced the opening of Fort Totten Park. Tentative plans for development of the property include preserving the battery fortification, creating a museum in the Old Fort Area, and constructing sports fields, playgrounds, and a waterfront trail. According to Congressman Gary L. Ackerman, "Transforming Fort Totten into a sprawling public park has been a vision" for over 20 years. The National Park Service (NPS) Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program and the Historic Surplus Property (HSP) Program transferred portions of the former U.S. Army base, including 15 buildings for public park and recreation use

and historic preservation purposes. The 55-acre property, valued at over \$90 million dollars, was conveyed to the City of New York at no cost. The transfer was negotiated by NPS FLP and HSP staff. For more information, please contact Elyse LaForest, FLP Manager – NER, at Elyse_LaForest@nps.gov or 617-223-5190 or Dennis Montagna, Architectural Historian – NER, at Dennis_Montagna@nps.gov or 215-597-5824.

Secretary Norton Commemorates Lighthouse Transfer

California Department of Parks and Recreation awarded Pigeon Point Light Station



Photo by Patricia Duff, USCG

San Mateo Co., CA (May 25, 2005) - Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton presided over the title transfer of a 4.3 acre parcel of land to the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR). The site includes an 1872 lighthouse, fog horn building, keeper dwellings, and several historic out-buildings. National Park Service Regional Director Jon Jarvis, CDPR, the US Coast Guard, the General Services Administration, and State Park partners were also on hand. The light station is a key element of a broader open space acquisition program of over 7,000 acres managed by the Peninsula Open Space Trust. The transfer of title to the light station is occurring pursuant to the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000 which authorizes the transfer of historic lighthouses to state, local, or federal government agencies or nonprofit organizations for preservation and public use. Gary Munsterman, Federal Lands to Parks Program Coordinator and Regional NHLPA Coordinator facilitated the regional review and recommendation and assisted with event organization. For more information, please contact Gary Munsterman at gary_munsterman@nps.gov or 510-817-1445

Celebrating National Trails Day...

...On the Water

Salem, OR (June 4, 2005) - The National Trails Day celebration of the newly designated Willamette River Water Trail included an eight mile paddle and over 200 participants; the event kicked off with a ribbon-cutting and timely words from Salem mayor Janet Taylor, National Park Service (NPS) deputy regional director Rory Westberg, congresswoman Darlene Hooley, and governor Ted Kulongoski.



The event was a culmination of two years of planning and implementation with significant technical assistance from both the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program and the Willamette American Heritage River Initiative (AHRI) which is supported by BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. The Water Trail consists of numerous public access sites acquired through Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. Donations of more than \$55,000 from private companies - including G.I. Joe's Sports Store, Columbia Sportswear, and Tom's of Maine - were highlighted for helping make the trail a reality. The Willamette River Water Trail is a locally-based effort led by a coalition of public agencies, NGOs, and private interests along the river known as the Mid-Willamette River Connections Group. RTCA and AHRI assisted this collaborative effort by helping to convene and conduct planning sessions, involve the public in the development of the trail, coordinate volunteers to inventory and assess public access sites along the river, and develop a plan and guidebook for the water trail. The Willamette is one of 14 designated American Heritage Rivers. For more information, please visit www.willamettewatertrail.org or contact Dan Miller, RTCA, at dan_miller@nps.gov or 206-220-4122, or Mark Brown, Willamette River Navigator, at mark_brown@blm.gov or 503-375-5686.

The Seven Year Itch ...

City of Lewiston Acquires Its First New Park Site in Seven Years



Photo courtesy Corky Fazio,
City of Lewiston

Lewiston, Idaho (June 15, 2005) – With \$207,788.50 in grant assistance provided by the National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the City of Lewiston acquired 63 acres for the development of its first new public park in more than seven years. Initial site development – a canyon rim interpretive trail and viewpoints – is scheduled to begin before year end. When fully developed, Community Park's youth and adult softball, baseball, and soccer fields, sports courts, playground, picnic areas, bike path, interpretive trail, canyon rim viewpoints, and amphitheater will serve many of the area's active and passive recreation needs.

According to Lewiston's Park Director Lynn Moss, "The acquisition and development of a new community park has been a top priority since the city adopted its Park and Open Space Plan in 1999." For more information, please contact Gloria Shinn, LWCF/UPARR Project Manager, Pacific West Region, Seattle Office, at gloria_shinn@nps.gov or 206-220-4126.

Opening of the Holmes County Trail

Ohio Announces Release of State Trail Plan

Holmes Co., OH (June 4, 2005) - Ohio Governor Bob Taft presided over the opening ceremony for the 10+ mile Holmes County Trail in the heart of Ohio's Amish Country. The trail is the culmination of years of work by local and state trail partners. Connecting Millersburg to Fredericksburg, the trail will accommodate many users, including Amish buggies. The trail was funded with OH Dept. of Transportation, OH Dept. of Development, State Capital Funds, and Clean Ohio Trail Fund Program money.



Photo by Chris Kasson/ Office of the Governor

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program helped with early organizational assistance in Holmes Co. and worked on the Heart of Ohio Trails Plan, of which this trail is an important segment. During the trail opening, Governor Taft and OH Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Sam Speck announced the release of the first Ohio State Trails Plan, "Trails For Ohioans." The plan reflects years of partnership between ODNR, the Ohio Chapter of Rails to Trails Conservancy, Ohio Greenways and the RTCA Program. For more information, please contact Paul Labovitz, RTCA/Midwest Program Leader, at paul_labovitz@nps.gov or 330-657-2950.

Closed Charleston Naval Complex Parcel Added to Cooper River Marina

Entire waterfront park now under County ownership



Photo by Jeff Schryver, Charleston County

North Charleston, SC (June 17, 2005) –The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks program transferred at no cost a 1.2-acre parcel to the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission (PRC), for public park and recreation use. Valued at over \$75,000, this parcel is the remaining portion of the Charleston Naval Complex Marina; 24.8 acres were conveyed to the PRC by the FLP program in 2000.

PRC adhered to its master plan by spending \$750,000 to

upgrade the existing docks and breakwater which had fallen into disrepair as the base was closing. In 2003 PRC received a \$930,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to renovate the 1,200 foot pier and support buildings. PRC added \$2,570,000 in local funds to complete a new transient dock that will accommodate 35 boats, a marina office and ship store, and a restroom building with showers, all ADA-compliant. When this new facility opens (scheduled for August 12th), local residents will be able to enjoy the transformation of a closed navy site into a multi-activity waterfront park. FLP staff negotiated the transfer. For more information, please contact Bill Huie, FLP Program Manager, at Bill_Huie@nps.gov or 404-562-3175.

28-mile Kokosing River designated Ohio's first water trail

Ohio Announces new Ohio Water Trails Program



Photo courtesy ODNR

Gambier, OH (June 4, 2004) – OH Dept. of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Sam Speck designated Ohio's first State Water Trail along the Kokosing State Scenic River at a ceremony on National Trails Day. Ohio's Water Trail Program resulted from a partnership with ODNR's Divisions of Watercraft, Wildlife, State Parks, Natural Areas and Preserves, and Real Estate and Land Management. Private sector partners include the Ohio Parks & Recreation Association, Ohio Greenways, League of Ohio Sportsmen, and Ohio Smallmouth Alliance. With the help of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, the partnership spent two years researching and developing Ohio's newest river conservation and recreation effort. The newly designated 28-mile water trail offers fantastic canoe, kayak, and fishing opportunities to residents and visitors to central Ohio. A trail brochure describes nine public river access areas. The water trail also parallels the Kokosing Gap Trail, a Rails to Trails project, that

offers one of the most scenic bicycle rides in the state. The RTCA Program helped strengthen the partnership and develop guidelines and criteria for the new program. For more information, please contact Paul Labovitz, Program Leader/Midwest Region at paul_labovitz@nps.gov or 330-657-2950.

Russell Fork River Connections:

Pine Mountain Trail grant received from AHS

Elkhorn City, KY (April 2-4, 2005) - High on a mountain at Breaks Interstate Park, during the "Russell Fork River Connection: Your Town Workshop," the American Hiking Society (AHS) presented a \$10,000 grant award to the Pine Mountain Trail Conference. The AHS National Trails Fund grant money will help build 18 additional miles of the Pine Mountain Trail, a trailhead parking lot, a covered shelter, and directional signs. The 28 mile stretch will eventually expand to cover 120 miles from Breaks Interstate Park to the Cumberland Gap National Park.

Working closely with the Elkhorn City Area Heritage Council and the 606 Team of Cal-Poly University, two regions of the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and



Photo courtesy Peggy Pings

Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program assisted planning and facilitation for the "Your Town Workshop" (funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), via the National Trust for Historic Preservation). Over 60 local citizens were instructed in trail planning, river conservation, sustainable tourism, ecotourism, cultural and historical preservation, linkage with long distance trails, and community art projects. The seminar included a design and mapping exercise which will be used to create a "Russell Fork Regional Trail and Open Space Plan" which will detail plans for linking a system of area land and water trails. For more information, please contact Peggy Pings, RTCA Outdoor Recreation Planner, at peggy_pings@nps.gov or 304-293-2941 x2446.

Parks and Programs Collaborate at Fresno Transfer Event Pending Transfer of Peach-Butler Community Park Site Celebrated

Fresno, CA (May 24, 2005) - The City of Fresno celebrated the pending transfer of fifty acres from US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Research Laboratory and Field Station to Fresno through the National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) program. Mayor Alan Autry, joined by Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks Deputy Superintendent Russ Wilson and officials from the General Services Administration and USDA, commemorated the property



transfer with their signatures on a ceremonial deed. Fresno's soon-to-be second largest developed park is located in a rapidly urbanizing, ethnically diverse area of the city. Portions of the property are expected to be improved with sports fields, trails, and gardens, following a master plan scheduled to be initiated after formal execution of the deed later this summer. Gary Munsterman, FLP Program Coordinator facilitated the property transfer and participated in event arrangements. For more information contact Gary Munsterman at gary_munsterman@nps.gov or 510-817-1445.

Conservation Successes informs Department of Interior staff, conservation partners, and friends about the program successes of the National Center for Recreation and Conservation. For more details, please contact the staff person involved with each project.

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